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## **Advisory Announcement**

***For Immediate Release: March 18, 2021***

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### **Prince William Sound Area Tanner Crab Commissioner's Permit Fishery Statistical Areas 485931 and 485935 Close Emergency Order 2-SF-E-03-21**

A Commissioner's Permit fishery for Tanner crab in Prince William Sound Area (PWS; 5 AAC 35.311) was opened in the Eastern and Western Districts, except for Statistical Area 486005, at 12:01 a.m. March 2, after a weather delay, with a pot limit of 25 pots and mandatory daily reports from fishers to monitor harvest and effort.

Fishery performance in Statistical Areas 485931 and 485935 (Figure 1) has been declining during the past week as indicated by daily reports of decreasing Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of number of legal crab caught per pot. Therefore, to avoid localized depletion, **Statistical Areas 485931 and 485935 will close at 11:59 p.m. Saturday, March 20.** Statistical Area 486005 will remain closed.

ADF&G will continue to monitor the fishery through daily mandatory call-in reports. Other statistical areas within the Eastern and Western Districts will remain open; fishermen should monitor announcements closely for future closures.

For additional information, contact Jan Rumble at (907) 321-1569 or Elisa Russ (907) 399-1721.

### ***COVID-19***

Under Alaska's Health Orders 5, 6, and 8, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Orders. COVID-19 Health Orders may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-order/>.

